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Top Dem sees tough pathway for \$3.5T social, climate plans

By ALAN FRAM
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hours after clinching an initial budget victory, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer conceded Wednesday that Democrats face a tough pathway to delivering a package surging \$3.5 trillion into family, health and environment programs to President Joe Biden's desk. Schumer, D-N.Y., made the remarks after the Senate approved a budget resolution outlining Democrat's 10-year plan for transforming the government into an engine focused on helping lower- and middle income people and slowing the planet's ominously warming temperatures. The real test will be when Democrats write and vote

on subsequent legislation actually enacting the party's priorities into specific spending and tax policies. To succeed, Schumer and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., will have to satisfy competing demands from party moderates worried about a fat price tag and progressives demanding an all-out drive for their priorities, all with virtually no margin for error in the narrowly divided Congress. "We still have a long road to travel," Schumer told reporters, turning to a football analogy. "It's as if we caught a nice long pass at midfield, but we still have 50 yards to go before we score a touchdown."

Continued on next page



Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., meets with reporters after a marathon "vote-a-rama" to advance President Joe Biden's federal priorities, at the Capitol in Washington, Wednesday, Aug. 11, 2021.

Associated Press

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Continued from Front

Actually, some might compare it more to being halfway up Mount Everest with the steeper climb ahead. That's because it's easier for leaders to coax votes from lawmakers for a budget blueprint than it is when they're writing actual changes in spending and tax laws that will deeply impact voters, interest groups and campaign contributors.

Underscoring the political broadsides that lay ahead, Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W. Va., said in a statement that he has "serious concerns about the grave consequences" of spending an additional \$3.5 trillion that



Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, the top Republican negotiator on the bipartisan infrastructure bill, arrives for the final vote to pass the \$1 trillion package, at the Capitol in Washington, Tuesday, Aug. 10, 2021.

Associated Press

he said could fuel inflation and threaten the economy. The views of Manchin, one of the Senate's most conservative Democrats, clash with progressives'

hopes for that amount or more.

Much of the cost of Democrats' proposal would be borne by wealthy people and large corporations, another area where some centrist Democrats may be wary.

The Senate on Tuesday approved the other big chunk of Biden's objectives, a compromise \$1 trillion bundle of transportation, water, broadband and other infrastructure projects. That measure, which passed 69-30 with 19 Republicans backing it, still needs House approval.

The Senate approved the budget resolution at about 4 a.m. EDT Wednesday over uniform Republican opposition, 50-49. It seems sure to get final congressional approval from the House later this month.

That fiscal blueprint's passage is pivotal because that will protect a follow-up bill enacting specific Democratic policies into law from a GOP filibuster in the 50-50 Senate, which would otherwise kill that legislation. Democrats have just a three-vote cushion in the House as well.

Schumer predicted that the final legislation — which the party hopes to produce next month — will contain "every part of the Biden plan in a big, bold, robust way."

Pointedly, he did not specify that the bill would provide the full amounts for Biden's priorities that the president wants. To fit Democrats' goals into their budget plans, some Biden policies may need to be made less ambitious or phased in or out over time.

A chief force behind Democrats' drive has been Senate Budget Committee Chairman Bernie Sanders, I-Vt. He said the measure would help children, families, the elderly and working people — and more.

"It will also, I hope, restore the faith of the American people in the belief that we can have a government that works for all of us, and not just the few," he said. Republicans argued that Democrats' proposals would waste money, raise economy-wounding taxes, fuel inflation and codify far-left dictates that would harm Americans.

Sen. Mike Rounds, R-S.D., missed the budget votes to be with his ailing wife. In a budget ritual, senators plunged into a "vote-a-rama," a nonstop parade of messaging amendments that often becomes a painful all-night ordeal. This time, the Senate held more than 40 roll calls by the time it approved the measure at around 4 a.m. EDT, more than 14 hours after the procedural wretchedness began.

With the budget resolution largely advisory, the goal of most amendments was not to win but to force the other party's vulnerable senators to cast troublesome votes that can be used against them in next year's elections for congressional control.

Republicans crowed after Democrats opposed GOP amendments calling for the full-time reopening of pandemic-shuttered schools and boosting the Pentagon's budget and retaining limits on federal income tax deductions for state and local levies. They were also happy when Democrats showed support for Biden's now suspended ban on oil and gas leasing on federal lands, which Republicans said would prompt gasoline price increases.

One amendment may have boomeranged after the Senate voted 99-0 for a proposal by freshman Sen. Tommy Tuberville, R-Ala., to curb federal funds for any municipalities that defund the police. □

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Lawsuit could delay replacement for aging postal fleet

By DAVID SHARP
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) —

Postal workers thrilled at the prospect of making deliveries in modern, comfortable and environmentally friendly vehicles are soldiering on in their aging, spartan trucks.

The primary fleet of vehicles — dating to 1987 — was due to be replaced under a new contract but the winning bid for the new trucks is being challenged. That means the delivery of new trucks set for 2023 could be delayed.

"The longer this drags on, the more lives are at risk," said John Graham, a postal carrier who operates one of the old vehicles in Portland, Maine.

Most workers don't care which model they get. They just want something that's safe.

More than 150 of the current vehicles have caught fire. They lack adequate heating and cooling, they deliver poor fuel economy and they're becoming difficult to maintain.

The Grumman Long Life Vehicle delivered on its name. They went into service from 1987 to 1994 with a promise of a 24-year service life. The oldest of them have survived about 34 years of grueling use on the daily mail routes from snowy Maine to sunny California.

Most postal carriers will tell you they weren't so great even in their prime.

They're built on a General Motors chassis with a body provided by Grumman and they're powered by a four-cylinder engine that was supposed to deliver fuel economy — but in reality provides about 9 miles per gallon (4 kilometers per liter) on stop-and-go routes. Missing are modern safety features like airbags and anti-lock brakes.



U.S. Postal Service carrier John Graham packs his mail bag after parking a 28-year-old delivery truck, Wednesday, July 14, 2021, in Portland, Maine.

Associated Press

A glaring fault in Maine's cold winters is inadequate heating.

Even worse is the lack of air conditioning that allows temperatures to soar to dangerous levels inside the vehicles on hot summer days. A postal worker died from a heat stroke earlier this summer during a heat wave in California.

Fires have become a frequent hazard. The Postal Times keeps a running tally along with photos on its website. There were 19 of them so far this year, including five in July.

In Florida, Kathleen Shunstrom witnessed one of them going up in flames. She opened her blinds to see her local carrier's postal truck ablaze in her neighbor's driveway in Niceville, on the Florida Panhandle. The carrier noticed her vehicle was smoking after delivering a package. By the time someone dialed 911, it had burst into flames. No one was hurt.

"It was scary to see," said Shunstrom, who captured

video of the flames on July 24 on her cellphone. "It went up so fast."

The U.S. Postal Service has more than 230,000 vehicles. That includes 190,000 local delivery vehicles, and more than 141,000 of those are Grumman LLVs, said USPS spokesperson Kim Frum.

"The current delivery fleet has reached a critical point where it is no longer cost-effective to maintain the fleet in order to provide reliable and efficient delivery service for citizens while meeting the needs of carriers," Frum said.

A competitive bid process was supposed to mark a turning point.

Wisconsin-based Oshkosh Defense won the bid in February for the Next Generation Delivery Vehicle with the first deliveries set for late 2023.

It's a greener vehicle with modern amenities like climate control and safety features like air bags, back-up cameras and collision avoidance. The trucks are also taller to make it easier

for postal carriers to grab packages and parcels that have been making up a far greater portion of their deliveries, even before the pandemic.

But a losing bidder, an Ohio company called Workhorse Group, challenged the fairness of the decision in June.

There's no deadline for protest decisions, but research suggests that contract challenges generally take about four to five months from filing to decision, according to David Ralston and Frank Murray, Washington-based attorneys from Foley & Lardner LLP.

The initial contract for Osh-

kosh Defense was for \$482 million for completing and testing the final design, and retooling and building out its factory to produce gas and electric versions. But the value could stretch into billions of dollars if Oshkosh delivers 165,000 vehicles over the next decade. Workhorse Group put the total contract value at up to \$3.1 billion in its contract challenge.

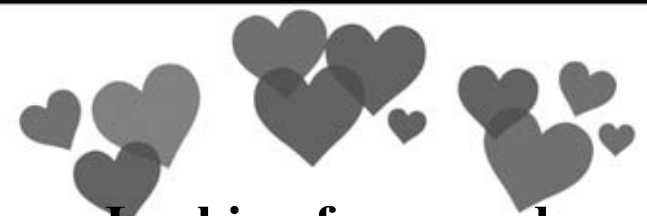
With so much money at stake, it's possible that any decision could go to the Court of Appeals, which would extend the timetable even further out. For now, Oshkosh is continuing to get started even as the challenge plays out.

Oshkosh Defense, which proposed a mix of gas and electric trucks, and Workhorse, which proposed an all-electric fleet, declined comment.

In Portland, Graham knows his vehicle fairly well. The rear-wheel drive vehicles spin around in icy conditions, so he knows to be careful. They reek of exhaust fumes. The transmission sometimes slips out of gear.

But the big complaint now, in the summer, is the heat. There's a fan on the dashboard but that doesn't cool things down much.

Graham said that during the summer he throws his lunch on the dashboard at mid-morning. "It'll be steaming hot by lunchtime," he said. □



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California 1st in U.S. to require vaccines, tests for teachers

By **JOCELYN GECKER** and **KATHLEEN RONAYNE**

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

California will become the first state in the nation to require all teachers and school staff to get vaccinated or undergo weekly COVID-19 testing, as schools return from summer break amid growing concerns about the highly contagious delta variant, Gov. Gavin Newsom announced Wednesday.

Newsom announced the new policy at a San Francisco Bay Area school that reopened earlier this week to in-person classes. Many California schools are back in session, with others starting in the coming weeks.

"We think this is the right thing to do and we think this is a sustainable way to keeping our schools open and to address the number one anxiety that parents like myself have for young children," Newsom said.

Several large school districts in the state have issued similar requirements in recent days, including San Francisco, Oakland, San Jose and the Long Beach Unified.

California, like the rest of



In this March 2, 2021, file photo, Vanessa Guerra, at right, a special education teacher at Grant Elementary School in Hollywood, receives a shot of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine from nurse Kelly Mendoza at a site for employees of the Los Angeles school district in the parking lot of SOFI Stadium in Inglewood, Calif.

Associated Press

the country, has seen a troubling surge in COVID-19 infections because of the delta variant, which represents the vast majority of new cases. It has affected children more than previous strains of the virus.

While Hawaii Gov. David Ige announced last week that all Department of Ed-

ucation staffers would be required to disclose their vaccination status or face weekly testing, California's order is far more sweeping, applying to all staff who work in both public and private schools.

In the past few weeks, Newsom has mandated that all health care workers

must be fully vaccinated and required that all state employees get vaccinated or choose weekly testing.

For schools, Newsom had already issued a mask mandate that applies to teachers and students but until Wednesday had left the decision of whether to require vaccines up to lo-

cal districts.

As the virus has surged, particularly among children who are too young to be vaccinated, a growing number of teachers unions have been easing their opposition to vaccine mandates.

California's two largest teachers unions — the California Teachers Association and the California Federation of Teachers — said they fully supported Newsom's policy. Both unions cited state and national polling that indicates nearly 90% of educators have been vaccinated but said the rising spread of the delta variant, particularly among children, makes the new policy necessary.

"Educators want to be in classrooms with their students, and the best way to make sure that happens is for everyone who is medically eligible to be vaccinated, with robust testing and multi-tiered safety measures," CTA President E. Toby Boyd said in a statement.

Details of how the new policy will be enforced were not announced, and labor unions say those logistics still need to be worked out. □

Storms, rain and excessive heat roll across parts of Midwest



Trees block the roadway at Pine and Oak streets as clean up begins from storm damage on Wednesday Aug. 11, 2021 in Lake in the Hills, Ill.

Associated Press

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (AP) — Heat and humidity

broiled parts of Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and other midwestern states Wednesday while storms accompanied by heavy rain bowled over trees and

flooded roads.

Thousands of homes and businesses in western and northern parts of Michigan's lower peninsula remained without power following damage to power lines.

Wind gusts reached about

70 mph in some areas, including the Dorr area south of Grand Rapids, toppling trees, limbs and power lines. Winds of between 30 and 50 mph (48.2 and 80.4 kph) were reported across a larger area.

Some downtown streets in northern Michigan's Traverse City were flooding while some roads in Antrim County were washed out, according to the Traverse City Record-Eagle.

"We have lots of washouts on both sides of Torch Lake we are finding this morning," County Road Commission office manager Dale Farrier told the newspaper Wednesday morning. "We're still assessing damage. Now that it's daylight we are finding more and more spots."

Jackson, Michigan-based Consumers Energy report-

ed nearly 170,000 of its customers were without power as of 11 a.m., while Great Lakes Energy said it had about 16,000 customers in the dark.

"Mother Nature delivered a powerful punch to Michigan," Consumers Energy Vice President for Electric Operations, Guy Packard said in a news release.

The utility's crews would be "working around the clock this week to turn the lights back on for everyone who was affected by this devastating storm" but urged customers to be patient, noting that additional storms are possible Wednesday night, he added.

Indiana Michigan Power said more than 27,000 homes and businesses had been without electricity at the peak of the overnight storms. About 17,000 cus-

tomers lost power after two feet (.60 meters) of water flooded a substation in southwestern Michigan.

Utility poles have been found broken and transformers damaged in the Fort Wayne and South Bend areas of northwestern Indiana, according to the utility.

The National Weather Service in Grand Rapids forecasts that more thunderstorms reaching "severe intensity" could hit the state Wednesday night into Thursday morning ahead an approaching area of cooler, less humid air.

The National Weather Service has issued heat advisories for the Chicago area, much of Indiana and the Detroit area where heat indices up to 100 degrees Fahrenheit (37.7 Celsius) were expected. □

Germany, Netherlands suspend deportations to Afghanistan

BERLIN (AP) — Germany and the Netherlands have suspended any deportations of migrants to Afghanistan due to the tense security situation as Taliban insurgents make sweeping gains in the Central Asian country.

Almost 30,000 Afghans in Germany, many of them failed asylum-seekers, are currently required to leave the country.

Germany's interior minister said the decision was taken due to concerns for the safety of those involved in the deportation.

A deportation of six Afghan citizens to Kabul planned for Aug. 3 was canceled at short notice due to a bomb attack in the Afghan capital.

"The security situation on the ground is changing so quickly at the moment that we can't fulfill (our responsibility for the safety) of the deportees, the staff accompanying them or the flight crews," Interior Minister Horst Seehofer said.

But he defended the deportations in general as "an important part of migration policy," adding that the expulsion of convicted



Taliban fighters and Afghans gather around the body of a member of the security forces who was killed, inside the city of Farah, capital of Farah province, southwest Afghanistan, Wednesday, Aug. 11, 2021.

Associated Press

criminals and people considered a security threat would resume as soon as the situation allows.

The decision was welcomed by German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas, who noted that the government of Afghanistan had previously asked Germany to suspend flights until the end

of October.

"We're doing so now now," he told reporters in Berlin. "I think that's right, too."

In the Netherlands, Justice State Secretary Ankie Broekers-Knol wrote to parliament that changes in Afghanistan were so unpredictable "that a decision was taken to impose a de-

parture moratorium."

She said the decision was justified by "the worsening situation and the possibility to wait for a decision until there is a more stable assessment of the situation."

Germany's Foreign Ministry is updating its new asylum evaluation report, which usually provides the main

criteria for deciding whether rejected asylum-seekers can be deported. Since 2016, more than 1,000 Afghan migrants who unsuccessfully applied for asylum in Germany have been sent back to their home country, according to dpa. Last week, six other European Union member countries argued that the forced deportation of migrants back to Afghanistan must continue despite the government in Kabul suspending such "non-voluntary returns" for three months.

In a letter dated Aug. 5, the interior ministers of Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Greece and the Netherlands urged the EU's executive branch to "intensify talks" with the Afghan government to ensure that the deportations of refugees would continue.

"Stopping returns sends the wrong signal and is likely to motivate even more Afghan citizens to leave their home for the EU," the ministers wrote to the European Commission.

The commission confirmed Tuesday that it had received the letter and would reply when ready. □

Canadian minister talks border with U.S. counterpart in DC

By **ROB GILLIES**
Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Canadian Immigration Minister Marco Mendicino met with the U.S. Homeland Secretary in Washington on Tuesday a day after Canada opened its border to fully vaccinated Americans. But Mendicino didn't say when the U.S. land border will open for Canadians.

Canada lifted its prohibition on Americans crossing the border to shop, vacation or visit this week while the U.S. is maintaining similar restrictions for Canadians.

"The United States is going to make that decision when it is best for them. They respected our decision and we will respect their decision and their timelines," Mendicino said in a phone interview with The Associated Press.

U.S. citizens and legal residents must be both fully

vaccinated and test negative for COVID-19 within three days to get across one of the world's longest and busiest land borders. Canadians can't cross U.S. the land border for non-essential reasons even if they are vaccinated and test negative.

The U.S.-Canada border has been closed to non-essential travel since March 2020 to try to slow the spread of the coronavirus. The U.S. has said it will extend its closure to all Canadians making nonessential trips until at least Aug. 21, which also applies to the Mexican border. But the Biden administration is beginning to make plans for a phased reopening. The main requirement would be that nearly all foreign visitors to the U.S. will have to be vaccinated against the coronavirus.

Canada has one of the

highest vaccination rates in the world, much higher than the U.S.

Mendicino visited U.S. homeland security Alejandro Mayorkas in his first international trip since the start of the pandemic in an effort to strengthen ties between the two governments.

"It was great to be able to reestablish that face to face contact with a very special trusted partner and friend in the United States," he said.

"There's still a lot of work to be done but good to know we have a trusted partner to do it with."

Canadians have been able to travel to the United States for any purpose since March 2020 provided that they fly. But businesses in U.S. border communities are eager for Canadians to be able to travel via the land border and some Ca-



Cars wait to enter Canadian customs at the Rainbow Bridge in Niagara Falls, N.Y., Monday, Aug. 9, 2021.

Associated Press

nadians are eager to return for non-essential purposes without flying.

Dr. Andrew Morris, a professor of infectious diseases at the University of Toronto and the medical director of the Antimicrobial Stewardship Program at Sinai-University Health Network, is leery about Canada's bor-

der reopening.

"The way you control the disease is you keep your numbers low and you prevent cases from coming in," Morris said.

"There is just a lot of COVID going on in the U.S. It increases the likelihood that we'll be importing cases." □

Amnesty reports widespread rapes 'with impunity' in Tigray

By CARA ANNA

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) —

Dozens of women have described shocking sexual assaults by Ethiopian soldiers and allied forces in the country's Tigray conflict, says an Amnesty International report published Wednesday, and its researcher calls it striking how the perpetrators appeared to act without fear of punishment from their commanders.

"All of these forces from the very beginning, everywhere, and for a long period of time felt it was perfectly OK with them to perpetrate these crimes because they clearly felt they could do so with impunity, nothing holding them back," Donatella Rovera told The Associated Press. She would not speculate on whether any leader gave the signal to rape, which the report says was intended to humiliate both the women and their Tigrayan ethnic group. In her years of work investigating atrocities around the world, these are some of the worst, Rovera said.

More than 1,200 cases of sexual violence were documented by health centers in Tigray between February and April alone, Amnesty



In this Friday, May 14, 2021 file photo, a 40-year-old woman who says she was held captive and repeatedly raped by 15 Eritrean soldiers over a period of a week in a remote village near the Eritrea border, speaks during an interview at a hospital in Mekele, in the Tigray region of northern Ethiopia.

said. No one knows the real toll during the nine-month conflict, as most of the health facilities across the region of 6 million people were looted or destroyed. These numbers are likely a "small fraction" of the reality, Amnesty said. It interviewed 63 women, along with health workers.

A dozen women described being held for days or weeks while being

raped multiple times, usually by several men. And 12 other women said they were raped in front of family members. Five women said they were pregnant at the time they were assaulted. Two said they had nails, gravel and shrapnel shoved into their vaginas.

"I don't know if they realized I was a person," one woman told Amnesty, describing how she was at-

tacked in her home by three men. She was four months pregnant at the time.

The AP separately has spoken with women who described being gang-raped by combatants allied with the Ethiopian military, notably soldiers from neighboring Eritrea but also fighters with the neighboring Amhara region.

Amnesty has not received

Associated Press

allegations against Tigray forces, who regained control of much of the Tigray region in late June and have since crossed into the Amhara and Afar regions in what they call an attempt to break the blockade on their land and pressure Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed to step down.

While Ethiopian and allied forces retreated from much of Tigray in June, some remain in western Tigray, and Ethiopia's government on Tuesday essentially abandoned its unilateral ceasefire as Abiy called all able citizens to fight.

The Amnesty report calls for accountability for the sexual violence during the conflict, saying rape and sexual slavery constitute war crimes. Many women in Tigray now live with the physical and mental effects of the assaults including HIV infections and continued bleeding, it said.

In a statement responding to the Amnesty report, Ethiopia's government said it had previously acknowledged that "some members of the armed forces have engaged in conduct that is contrary to the clear rules of engagement and direction they have been given." □

Sri Lanka files charges against 25 Easter bombing suspects



In this Sunday April 21, 2019, file photo, Sri Lankan police officers inspect the site of an explosion at the Shangri-la hotel in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Associated Press

By KRISHAN FRANCIS

Associated Press

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) —

Sri Lanka has filed 23,270 charges against 25 people in connection with the 2019 Easter Sunday suicide bomb attacks on churches and hotels that killed 269 people, the president's of-

fice said Wednesday.

The charges filed Tuesday under the country's anti-terrorism law include conspiring to murder, aiding and abetting, collecting arms and ammunition, and attempted murder, it said.

The attorney general also asked the chief justice to

appoint a special three-member high court bench to hear the cases speedily, it said in a statement.

Two local Muslim groups that had pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group were blamed for the six near-simultaneous suicide bomb attacks on April 21, 2019. The blasts targeted three churches and three hotels.

Another suicide bomber who had entered a fourth hotel left without setting off his bomb, but later committed suicide by detonating his explosives at a different location.

Friction and a communication breakdown between then-President Maithripala Sirisena and then-Prime Minister Ranil Wick-

remesinghe were blamed for the government's failure to act on near-specific foreign intelligence warnings ahead of the attacks. That led to the election of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa later in 2019 on a platform of national security.

Rajapaksa was a former army officer and a defense official who had played a decisive role in defeating Tamil Tiger rebels and ending a 26-year civil war.

The head of the Roman Catholic archdiocese of Colombo, Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith, has repeatedly charged that the investigation into the blasts was not being conducted properly.

He said he believes the real conspirators are still at

large and has accused authorities of trying to shield the masterminds.

Ranjith wrote a strong letter to Rajapaksa last month stating there are allegations that some members of the state intelligence services knew and met with the attacker who initially did not explode his bomb and asked the authorities to investigate. Citing speeches in Parliament by lawmakers, Ranjith said intelligence personnel also allegedly had a suspect released from police custody.

The president's office said presidential legal affairs director Harigupta Rohanadeera had sent a detailed reply to Ranjith, but did not release the letter. □

Brazil's Bolsonaro loses his bid to reform voting system

By MAURICIO SAVARESE and MARCELO SILVA DE SOUSA

Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP) — President Jair Bolsonaro has suffered a major defeat in Congress when Brazilian lawmakers rejected a proposal to require printed receipts at some electronic ballot boxes.

Without presenting any evidence, Bolsonaro has insisted Brazil's electronic voting system is prone to fraud, and that printouts would allow for auditing results. The proposed constitutional change needed 308 votes in order to pass, and received 229 Tuesday night. The opposition, however, also fell short of reaching an overwhelming majority to rebuff the president's relentless efforts to undermine confidence in the voting system. Only 218 lawmakers voted against the measure.

Electoral authorities and even many of Bolsonaro's political allies opposed the proposal, saying the system is fully reliable and the change could create op-



Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro waves next to his Defense Minister Walter Braga Netto as a military convoy passes Planalto presidential palace in Brasilia, Brazil, Tuesday, Aug. 10, 2021. Associated Press

portunities for vote buying. Critics contend Bolsonaro is trying to sow doubt among his passionate supporters about the 2022 election results, setting the stage for potential conflicts similar to those spawned by then U.S. President Donald Trump's allegations of fraud in the United States.

Cláudio Couto, a political scientist at the Getulio Vargas Foundation, a university, said Tuesday's vote marked the biggest legislative defeat for Bolsonaro since he took office in 2019. The measure was a watered-down version of an initial proposal to adopt printouts at all of the na-

tion's voting ballot boxes. That initiative was rejected last week by a congressional committee.

"The administration is getting more fragile in every aspect," Couto said. "By insisting on the printed vote for a nonexistent problem Bolsonaro made this defeat important."

Bolsonaro told supporters on Wednesday that, despite the loss, the divided vote showed that a large part of Congress doesn't believe elections are conducted seriously and that Brazilians won't trust next year's results.

He said some lawmakers who voted against the proposal were pressured by Brazil's electoral court, while others were blackmailed or feared retaliation. He offered no evidence for those claims.

In pushing for the change, Bolsonaro has repeatedly insulted Luis Roberto Barroso, a Supreme Court justice who is president of Brazil's electoral court, accusing him of working to benefit former leftist President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, who is expected to run in next year's election and is leading in early polls.

Earlier Tuesday, dozens of military vehicles and hundreds of soldiers paraded past the presidential palace as Bolsonaro looked on, then they continued past Congress. The vehicles left the city at night. □

Haiti selects judge to oversee presidential slaying case

By EVENS SANON and DÁNICA COTO

Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — A justice official told The Associated Press on Monday that he has selected a

judge to oversee the case of the slaying of President Jovenel Moïse amid concerns over death threats and demands for additional security.

Mathieu Chanlatte will be

in charge of proceedings involving the July 7 attack at Moïse's private home, said Magistrate Bernard Saint-Vil, who is dean of the Court of First Instance in Port-au-Prince.

"The judge is very competent," Saint-Vil said.

Chanlatte could not be immediately reached for comment.

The choice was praised by some people, including Haitian attorney Steevens Rosemond, who is not involved in the case.

"I ask that the Haitian state guarantee the safety of this magistrate so that he can do his work in accordance with the standards," Rosemond said.

Last week, Saint-Vil said he had requested extra security measures as he prepared to select a judge to oversee the case. □



Relatives of the former armed forces members who were accused of being involved in the murder of Haitian President Jovenel Moïse, demonstrate in support of their imprisoned loved ones, in Plaza Bolivar, Bogota, Colombia, Monday, Aug. 9, 2021. Moïse was assassinated at his home by an armed group of men on July 7.

Associated Press

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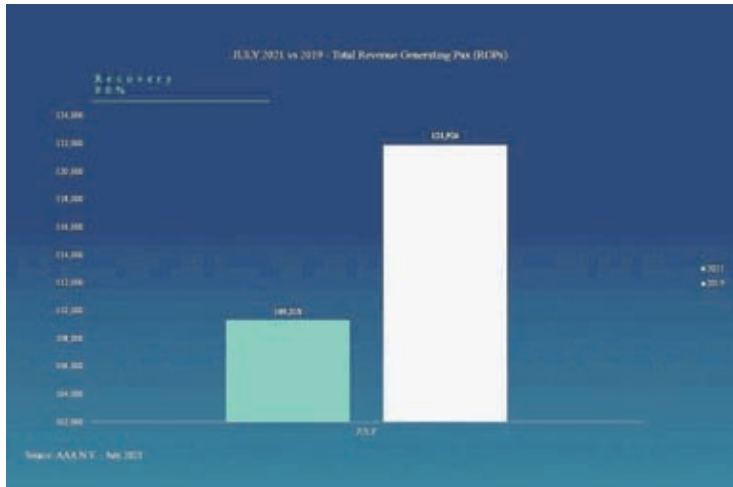
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90% of July 2019 departing passengers recovered in July 2021
109,318 passengers departed in July 2021



An average outbound passenger load factor (PLF) (number of seats of the total seats on board an aircraft that are occupied when departing from AUA Airport) for the US Market of 91% was reported during the month of July 2021, while the average PLF for all markets was at 88% during that same period (in comparison to 2019 where an average PLF for all markets of 85% was reached).

ORANJESTAD – Aruba Airport Authority N.V. (AAA) reports as follows on AUA Airport's performance for July 2021 where the strongest recovery yet has been recorded since the pandemic hit back in March of 2020.

29% more than month before. During the past month AUA Airport recovered 90% of the amount of departing passenger that were handled in 2019 during that same month. In July 2021 91,715 passengers (pax) travelled to the US, 7,568 pax to Europe, 3,724 pax to the Netherlands Antilles, and 6,311 pax to Latin America.

In July 2021, AUA Airport handled 109,318 departing passengers. This was

During the past month, AUA Airport averaged 30 flights per day, down from 37 daily flights during the same period in 2019. In that same period in 2020 we only handled a total amount of 275 flights whilst our national border re-opened in July of 2020 for all commercial operations. □

The Department of Public Health makes an URGENT appeal to persons between the age of 12 and 45 years to vaccinate

ORANJESTAD – The Department of Public Health (DVG) of Aruba keeps emphasizing the importance to vaccinate.

with a vaccination rate under 70% are still vulnerable. The Pfizer vaccine currently being administered in Aruba is effective. According to the data of August 9, 2021, of a total of 803 positive cases, only 6 (18%) of the hospitalized patients are vaccinated, and none are in the ICU. The majority are recovering at home without the need for extra medical care. Therefore, the DVG emphasizes the importance of the COVID vaccine and urges the community, especially the age group between 12 and 45 years and those that did not get their vaccine yet, to vaccinate as soon as possible. Make your appointment preferably via www.dvg.aw or via Aruba Health App, or call 5224200- 2800101-5224211- 5224210-5224214. □

In Aruba, we can see how effective the vaccine is. An average of 67.5% of the population of 12 years and older in Aruba are vaccinated. However, it is still the unvaccinated minority testing positive and requiring extra medical care. The DVG works and makes its policy based on data and analysis. Based on this data the DVG continues to promote vaccination as the best form of prevention. Of the age group between 45 to 80 years, 70% are vaccinated, which is positive. However, the desired rate is above 85%. DVG also noticed that the age groups 12 to 44 years and 80 years and older



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EAGLE BEACH — If you go to Aruba, you must dine on the beach, toes in the sand, loved one on the side and culinary treats in front of you paired with some bubbles. Unforgettable, that's what you are ...Nat King Cole said it best. The title of the song applies to your partner, the setting on Manchebo Resort's beach and the food of famous Chef Sandro. Welcome to 'Dinner under the Stars' featuring you and her/him.

Escaping the cold weather to go find your tropical paradise is a wonderful thing to do. While mind

mapping of this event, you include a romantic dinner on the beach, as you have seen it in multiple prospects of remote beaches, yes, that is what you want. On Aruba you may choose from different options but why not go for the number one beach; one of the best ones in the world: Eagle Beach.

Ike's Bistro at Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa set up an amazing dinner on the beach. Picture this: you and your loved one walking to a dinner table decorated with subtle lights, the waiter pampers you all night long and you



gazing out over the Caribbean blue watching the beautiful sunset with a sparkling wine in the hand. It all feels like the two of you alone in paradise. And this is only the beginning...

Appetizers are named "Romance in a Bowl" presenting a marriage of fresh lettuces, crumbled goat cheese, roasted almonds, grilled mushroom and homemade raspberry vinaigrette or "Temptation of the Sea," a delicious well-filled seafood chowder served with crostini bread, micro greens, paprika aioli & basil foam. The "Love Bird" main course carries corn-fed, free-range chicken; broiled and generously filled with honey cured ham and melted Gouda cheese, served with grilled zucchini and yellow squash, radish salsa, al dente linguini pasta and saffron-white wine sauce. Second choice for the main course brings on "The loving Couple" serving an amazing Caribbean lobster tail broiled in lemon-herb butter till golden brown and perfectly grilled filet mignon, served with garlic baby potatoes,

steamed veggies and rosemary demi-glace. There is a third winner called "The Love Boat," consisting of fresh grilled catch-of-the-day combined with jumbo green shell mussels, black tiger shrimp and calamari, served with mango-citrus quinoa, roasted red pepper and zucchini and white-wine-beurre blanc sauce. The love carries on in the dessert which is a Sweethearts of white chocolate Baileys mousse, fresh strawberries and hazelnut ice-cream. Coffee and tea close this wondrous feast.

The Romantic Dinner under the Stars is a special event and we strongly suggest you take advantage of this happening while it lasts. It is the whole spectrum in one night, all of the above including a bottle of bubbles for \$160 per couple (taxes not included). □

Call them at +297 582 3444 to reserve your table or contact them on Facebook: Ike's Bistro. Bon appetite!

The Lyons honored as Distinguished visitors

PALM BEACH — Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. The Distinguished Visitor certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation and to say 'Masha Danki', to the guests who visit Aruba 10 years

and more consecutively. family to them.

The honorees were Alyssa & Kate Lyons, from Massachusetts!

This family stated that they love the island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches and picturesque sunsets, and Aruba's warm and friendly people who became like

Richardson together with the representatives of the Divi Phoenix presented the certificates to the honorees, handed over some presents and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home. □



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Urgent Care Aruba (UCA) Updates on Alternative Road Access to the Facility and Medical Services



NOORD — The Public Works Department DOW has started with work to improve road conditions in our street. It is expected to have a duration period of 6 weeks, until August 22nd, 2021. In the meantime, a new alternative road has been established for our patients.

To better guide you to our facility, we have created an indication map, as well as a drone shot video that is available on our website www.urgentcare.aw. (Scan QR Code for google maps direction) The alternative road description is as following:

If you are coming from the hotel area, make sure to reach CMB Bank or Western Union, right after Local Store and/or Citgo Gas station.

1. Turn left at the crossroad (If coming from the hotel area)
2. Continue straight ahead (Keep in mind that cars coming from the right are on the priority road)
3. Turn right at the end of the road and naturally follow the road ahead (Watch out for sharp curve road)
4. Reach Oasis Home Care, Turn right at the first right turn
5. Continue straight ahead up and down the road till you reach a T-Cross in a residential area
6. Turn right at the T-Cross and continue straight ahead
7. Follow sign for access to parking lot Urgent Care Aruba and Medlab Laboratory.

As a medical facility, we offer medical assistance for non-life-threatening illnesses and injuries. Our clinic is also equipped with a Radiology Department to include X-Ray services, and a Gynecology (OB-GYN) Department to include general gynecology services and 3D/4D ultrasound. Urgent Care Aruba (UCA) often sees patients with COVID related symptoms, upper respiratory conditions, sore throats, coughs, earache, eye and sinus infections, urinary tract infections, fevers, gastrointestinal issues/ symptoms; nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, minor cuts scrapes,

wounds, burns, abrasions, sprains, and strains; dislocations, back/ muscle pain, allergic reactions, sexually transmitted infections, and more. All of these symptoms are easily treatable if you quickly seek medical attention.

Communicate with us whenever one of these symptoms arise in order for us to assist you into a speedy recovery and back to your vacation time.

For more information contact us at (+297) 5860448, WhatsApp (+297) 5975549, or Facebook Inbox: Urgent Care Aruba. Our operation hours are from Monday to Friday 8am to 8pm, Saturday 8am to 4pm, and on Sundays from 10am to 2pm. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for any updates and weekly Pharmacy on Duty schedule.

For COVID-19 testing, visit www.covid-aruba.com for more information and appointments, or contact our COVID WhatsApp line (+297) 5975548.

Our main goal is for you to not have to miss out on your vacation time because of an illness or injury, we are here to give you the best medical attention on the island.

The good news is, Urgent Care Aruba (UCA) works closely together with many travel insurance companies, giving you the opportunity to seek reimbursement on your medical expenses once you are back home.☐



\$20K or more to expand your family? How to pay for adoption

By CHANELL ALEXANDER of NerdWallet

Sarah Bailey's adoption experience began in 2013 when she connected with an adoption placement agency and paid fees for a parental class and to advertise to birth mothers for one year.

In 2014, and still without a successful adoption, Bailey began paying a monthly \$340 advertising fee each time an adoption fell through.

"I didn't expect the month-to-month" fee, says Bailey, a mental health program director in Indianapolis. As the expenses continued into year two of an expected yearlong process, Bailey became discouraged.

"For me, there was a point where I almost gave up," she says.

She persisted, and by 2015, Bailey had paid over \$22,000 to adopt her son.

The cost of a private agency adoption can range from \$20,000 to \$45,000, according to the Child Welfare Information Gateway, a service of the Children's Bureau under the federal Office of the Administration



In this Feb. 5, 2021 file photo, a couple helps a child on a snow covered embankment at in Huntingdon Valley, Pa.

Associated Press

for Children and Families.

The price can include legal fees, a home study to check the safety of your living space and counseling. But adoption can include unplanned costs like living expenses and hospital costs for the birth mother during pregnancy that vary depending on the agency and state, as well as the adoption timeline.

To manage the costs, experts recommend families plan ahead and tap multiple types of financing, from fundraising to borrowing. Here are strategies to consider.

START WITH A PLAN

If you're working with an adoption agency, you'll typically receive a list of costs before applying, says Blake Jones, an adoptive

parent, certified financial planner and founder of Pomegranate Financial, a Utah-based financial planning firm.

Use that information to create a timeline of the expenses you'll have over the next six to 18 months before signing the adoption application, he says.

Then, look at financial resources you have access

to savings, home equity, grants and align what you have with when you may need it, advises Jones.

Building up your savings is the best option, says Marta Shen, a certified financial planner at Spring Street Financial of Raymond James in Atlanta and an adoptive parent who advises clients on managing adoption costs. Repaying a loan on top of new-parent expenses like child care can be financially stressful, she says.

ASK OTHERS FOR HELP

During her adoption process, Bailey turned to her community to help raise funds.

"I bought a puzzle and I sold pieces so people could be a part of my child's life," she says. For "everyone that bought one, I put their name on the back." □

The finished puzzle sits in her now 6-year-old son's room a reminder of all those who helped connect them in 2015.

Aaron Johnson, a father of two adopted children from Orlando, Florida, also fundraised for his first adoption in 2017. Johnson raised over \$10,000. □

More red ink: U.S. budget deficit through July hit \$2.54T

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. budget deficit hit \$2.54 trillion for the first 10 months of this budget year, fed by spending to support the country after the pandemic-induced recession.

The figures keep the deficit on track to be second largest annual shortfall in U.S. history, behind only the most recent fiscal year that ended Sept. 30.

Still, the Treasury Department reported Wednesday that the deficit through July is 9.5% lower than the same period a year ago.

That reflected improving tax collections as the economy recovers, and the winding down of many of the emergency support programs enacted after the pandemic struck in March of last year.

The deficit for the 2020 bud-

get year hit an all-time high of \$3.1 trillion after Congress passed trillions of dollars in support in the form of individual stimulus payments, enhanced unemployment benefits and support for small businesses. The Congressional Budget Office is forecasting that this year's deficit will narrow slightly to \$3 trillion. The CBO projects further improvement for the next budget year, which starts Oct. 1, expecting the deficit to fall to \$1.2 trillion. However, that estimate does not take into account the impact of two huge spending bills now advancing in Congress: a roughly \$1 trillion bill to support traditional infrastructure programs such as highway construction, and a \$3.5 trillion measure backed only by Democrats to deal with such issues as poverty and climate change.

For the 10 months from October through July, the government reported that its revenues totaled a record \$3.32 trillion for the period. That was an increase of 17.5% from the same period a year ago when millions of people were out of work and the country was struggling to emerge from the pandemic-triggered recession.

Collection of corporate taxes were up 61% so far this year to \$324 billion as many companies saw rising profits as the country reopened.

Spending for the first 10 months of the budget year totaled a record \$5.86 trillion, up 4% from the same period a year ago, although many categories of spending have started to decline recently as support programs wind down.

Labor Department spend-



This May 4, 2021, file photo shows the Treasury Building in Washington.

Associated Press

ing declined to \$30 billion in July, from \$80 billion in July 2020, a drop largely due to a decline in unemployment benefits as more Americans found jobs and many states phased out their expanded unemployment benefits ahead of their September cutoff. The deficit for July totaled \$302.1 billion, a re-

cord for the month and up from a deficit of \$63 billion in July 2020.

However, the comparison was skewed by a delay in the tax deadline that boosted revenue from individual and corporate taxes that normally the government would have collected earlier in the year. □

CROSSWORD

By **THOMAS JOSEPH**

- ACROSS**
- 43 Printing goofs
 - 1 Man of steel
 - 6 Decrees
 - 11 Home
 - 12 Pester
 - 13 Ford's predecessor
 - 14 Subordinate to
 - 15 News channel features
 - 17 Clerk on "The Simpsons"
 - 19 Stake
 - 20 Catch some z's
 - 23 Shared, as an old story
 - 25 Lot buy
 - 26 Where a dirty mind may be
 - 28 Goblet part
 - 29 Shortly
 - 30 Cochlea setting
 - 31 CEO's perk
 - 32 First número
 - 33 Volcanic rock
 - 35 Billiards shot
 - 38 Photo finish
 - 41 Blow away
 - 42 Makes smooth
- DOWN**
- 1 Operated
 - 2 Kimono sash
 - 3 Utility knife
 - 4 Skunk's defense
 - 5 Easily defended
 - 6 Quake locale
 - 7 Travel stops
 - 8 Furthermore
 - 9 Low digit
 - 10 Leb. neighbor
 - 16 Pranks involving yanks
 - 17 Stand
 - 18 Half of deca-
 - 20 Almond spread, e.g.
 - 21 Dined at home
 - 22 — -Novo (Benin's capital)
 - 24 Unit of resistance
 - 25 — loss (confused)
 - 27 Wild
 - 31 Madison or Monroe
 - 33 Doofus
 - 34 Volcanic flow
 - 35 Purr
 - 36 Writer Tan
 - 37 Drake's music
 - 39 Blasting stuff
 - 40 Slalom maneuver

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Yesterday's answer

- 17 Stand
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- 20 Almond spread, e.g.
- 21 Dined at home
- 22 — -Novo (Benin's capital)
- 24 Unit of resistance
- 25 — loss (confused)
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43						44			

8-12

A X Y D L B A A X R
I S L O N G F E L L O W

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three I's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

8-12

CRYPTOQUOTE

E H L E X X E W K U O

W E Q W K I C O N H W S C . N U V N B C

N W O Z H X E Q C O E I A Q S C C E Z H C .

— U S Z O Z U C O Z B

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: WE MUST NOT ALLOW OTHER PEOPLE'S LIMITED PERCEPTIONS TO DEFINE US. — VIRGINIA SATIR



In this May 7, 2020 file photo, a pregnant woman wearing a face mask and gloves holds her belly as she waits in line for groceries at St. Mary's Church in Waltham, Mass.

Associated Press

CDC urges COVID vaccines during pregnancy as delta surges

By **LINDSEY TANNER and MIKE STOBBE**
AP Medical Writers

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention urged all pregnant women Wednesday to get the COVID-19 vaccine as hospitals in hot spots around the U.S. see disturbing numbers of unvaccinated mothers-to-be seriously ill with the virus. Expectant women run a higher risk of severe illness and pregnancy complications from the coronavirus, including perhaps miscarriages and stillbirths. But their vaccination rates are low, with only about 23% having received at least one dose, according to CDC data.

"The vaccines are safe and effective, and it has never been more urgent to increase vaccinations as we face the highly transmissible delta variant and see severe outcomes from COVID-19 among unvaccinated pregnant people," CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky said in a statement.

The updated guidance comes after a CDC analysis of new safety data on 2,500 women showed no increased risks of miscarriage for those who received at least one dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine before 20 weeks

of pregnancy. The analysis found a miscarriage rate of around 13%, within the normal range.

The CDC's advice echoes recent recommendations from top obstetrician groups. The agency had previously encouraged pregnant women to consider vaccination but had stopped short of a full recommendation. The new advice also applies to nursing mothers and women planning to get pregnant. Although pregnant women were not included in studies that led to authorization of COVID-19 vaccines, experts say real-world experience in tens of thousands of women shows that the shots are safe for them and that when given during pregnancy may offer some protection to newborns. The new guidance comes amid a surge in COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths in the U.S., driven by the highly contagious delta variant.

Some health authorities believe the variant may cause more severe disease in pregnant women and others as well than earlier versions of the virus, though that is still under investigation.

National figures show the latest surge in cases among pregnant women is lower

than it was during the outbreak's winter peak. But at some hospitals in states with low vaccination rates, the numbers of sick mothers-to-be outpace those during earlier surges, before vaccines were available.

"This is by far the worst we've seen in the pandemic," said Dr. Jane Martin, an obstetrician with Ochsner Baptist Medical Center in New Orleans. She added: "It's disheartening and it's exhausting. It feels like it doesn't have to be like this."

At the beginning of the pandemic and with each surge, Ochsner had a few pregnant patients very sick with the virus, though the numbers had dwindled in recent months.

"A week or two ago that pace changed drastically," Martin said. "We have had multiple critically ill pregnant patients admitted" every day, most requiring intensive care.

Martin said she has taken care of at least 30 pregnant patients hospitalized with COVID-19 over the last two weeks. Most were unvaccinated.

Experts say the lifting of mask rules and other social distancing precautions and the rise of the delta variant have contributed to the worrisome trend. □

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'Jeopardy!' producer Richards named host; role for Bialik

By LYNN ELBER
AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Eight months after the death of beloved "Jeopardy!" host Alex Trebek, the daily syndicated quiz show chose its executive producer, Mike Richards, as Trebek's successor over a field of celebrity candidates.

But after fan backlash to a selection process that turned messy in recent weeks, producer Sony split the pie by naming another guest host, actor Mayim Bialik, as emcee for "Jeopardy!" primetime and spinoff series, including a new college championship.

In another nod to "Jeopardy!" devotees, longtime champion Ken Jennings will return as a consulting producer.

Richards will retain executive producing duties for "Jeopardy!" and "Wheel of Fortune," Sony Pictures Television said in a statement Wednesday. The studio also appeared to deflect the idea that it was bowing to the dismay that some fans expressed when word leaked last week that Richards would be the pick.



This combination photo shows Mike Richards, left, in the pressroom at the 43rd annual Daytime Emmy Awards on May 1, 2016, in Los Angeles and Mayim Bialik at a Celebration of the 70th Anniversary of Israel on June 10, 2018, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

"We knew early on that we wanted to divide the hosting responsibilities and it became very clear that Mike and Mayim were the undeniable choices. They were both at the top of our research and analysis," said Ravi Ahuja, Chairman of Global Television Studios

for Sony Pictures. "We took this decision incredibly seriously."

In his guest-host appearances, Ahuja said, Richards was "at ease behind the podium and a double threat as producer and host.

Mayim has a wonderful

energy, an innate sense of the game, and an authentic curiosity that naturally represents the 'Jeopardy!' brand."

Richards was the second of the temp hosts who filled the void left by Trebek, with "Jeopardy!" champs Jennings and Buzzy Cohen, ac-

tors Bialik and LeVar Burton, NFL player Aaron Rodgers and TV journalists among the others.

The studio didn't break the game-show mold by choosing Richards. White male hosts have long been the convention, with a few women (among them Meredith Vieira, Jane Lynch, Leslie Jones) and a larger contingent of Black men (Wayne Brady, Steve Harvey, Anthony Andrews) making inroads in recent years.

Richards has a long game show resume. He was the executive producer of "The Price is Right" and "Let's Make a Deal" for more than a decade and produced the 2020 revival of "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire." His on-camera experience includes hosting "The Pyramid" and "Beauty and the Geek," a reality show.

He joined "Jeopardy!" as the replacement for retiring executive producer Harry Friedman starting with the 2020-21 season, and was in the job for only a few months when Trebek, 80, died last November of pancreatic cancer. □

PBS chief: Diversity efforts not all 'our best,' changes set



PBS President and CEO Paula Kerger speaks during the PBS Executive Session at the Television Critics Association Winter Press Tour on Feb. 2, 2019, in Pasadena, Calif.

Associated Press

By LYNN ELBER
AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — PBS has fallen short on some aspects of diversity and is taking steps toward comprehensive change to be overseen by a new executive hired for the task, CEO

and President Paula Kerger said.

While the measures took into account allegations that PBS favors white male filmmaker Ken Burns ("The Civil War," "Baseball") and slights viewers of color, Kerger said, they emerged

from a deeper reappraisal prompted by the murder of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer in 2020. "I think these are important moments to pause and to look at ourselves very carefully," Kerger said. While public broadcasting has a "long legacy of attempting to reflect our country and the diversity of it, I think we don't always look as carefully in the mirror and recognize that there may be areas where we are not doing our best."

Cecilia Loving joined PBS on Monday as senior vice president for diversity, equity and inclusion, reporting to Kerger.

Loving has been serving as a deputy commissioner and chief diversity officer for the New York City Fire Department.

"My goal is to build upon PBS's strong foundation

through transparency, trust, and ongoing collaboration with employees and key stakeholders across the public media system," Loving said in a statement.

Kerger also announced a "multi-year, multimillion-dollar commitment" to support the work of "underrepresented" filmmakers through the nonprofit Firelight Media and its Groundwork Regional Lab. According to the group's website, the lab supports "diverse, emerging documentary filmmakers living and working" in the U.S and U.S.-controlled territories. The effort will put 40 fledgling filmmakers in partnership with local PBS stations, Kerger said during a virtual Q&A session Tuesday with TV critics.

Last year, Kerger said she "respectfully disagreed" with criticism from film-

maker Grace Lee, who had argued in an essay for the Ford Foundation that public TV's deep attachment to Burns represents one white man's "lens on America" at the expense of people of color.

Other filmmakers built on Lee's criticism after Kerger's response.

On Tuesday, Kerger said her understanding of how PBS approaches diversity has grown since those remarks, based on conversations with the filmmakers and what she called a variety of stakeholders.

Under criteria to be applied across PBS broadcast and digital platforms, producers now must provide a "diversity, equity and inclusion" plan for every agreement and series renewal, with diverse representation in all aspects of hiring, the service said. □

Blackhawks Hall of Fame goaltender Tony Esposito dies at 78

By **ANDREW SELIGMAN**
AP Sports Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — Tony Esposito made an immediate mark on the Chicago Blackhawks and a lasting impression on the NHL.

Esposito, the pioneering Hall of Famer who spent almost his entire 16-year career with the Blackhawks, died following a brief battle with pancreatic cancer, the team announced Tuesday. He was 78.

Esposito debuted with Montreal during the 1968-69 season and appeared in 13 games. He was then left unprotected with the Canadiens deep in goalies and taken by the Blackhawks in an intraleague draft for \$25,000, an investment that paid immediate dividends for a team that was coming off a last-place finish in its division.

Esposito helped lead the Blackhawks to first place, showcasing his butterfly style to post a 2.17 goals-against average and 15 shutouts, still a modern record for an NHL goalie. He won the Calder Trophy as the NHL's rookie of the year as well as the Vezina Trophy given to the top goaltender. He also won the Vezina in 1972 and 1974.

"Tony was one of the most important and popular figures in the history of the franchise as we near its 100th anniversary," Blackhawks chairman Rocky Wirtz said. "Four generations of our family — my grandfather Arthur, my father Bill, my son Danny and I — were blessed by his work ethic as a Hall of Fame goalie, but more importantly, by his mere presence and spirit." The Esposito family called him a "Hall of Fame husband, father, and grandfather."

"Chicago felt like home from the time Tony first arrived in 1969, thanks to the Wirtz family and those 18,000 Blackhawks fans who treated him like family every night at the Stadium, win or lose or tie," the family said in a statement.

Esposito was from Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, just across the St. Mary's River from Michigan's Upper

Peninsula, and he helped Michigan Tech to an NCAA championship in 1965. His older brother, Phil, was a star in his own right, a Hall of Fame center who played 18 seasons in the NHL.

The younger Esposito's first NHL start was Dec. 5, 1968, against Boston — and his brother. Phil Esposito scored twice on his younger brother, but Tony made 33 saves and the game ended 2-2. Commissioner Gary Bettman called him "a beloved member of the hockey family."

"It was Esposito's style, charisma and heart that endeared him most to hockey fans not only in Chicago but across the NHL," Bettman said. "The hockey world will miss him greatly." Esposito helped lead Chi-



In this July 15, 2016, file photo, Chicago Blackhawks great Tony Esposito is introduced to the fans during the Blackhawks' convention in Chicago.

Associated Press

cago to the playoffs in 14 seasons. The Blackhawks reached the Stanley Cup Final in 1971 and 1973, losing each time to his former

team, Montreal. He is Chicago's career leader with 418 wins and 74 shutouts. His overall record of 423-306-151 ranks

10th in league history. He was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1988, joining his brother. And in 2017, he was selected by the league as one of the "100 Greatest Players in NHL History."

The Blackhawks retired Esposito's No. 35 on Nov. 20, 1988, and paid tribute to him again on March 19, 2008. He was named a team ambassador in a pre-game ceremony attended by franchise icons and former teammates Bobby Hull, Stan Mikita and Denis Savard as well as his brother.

"It's a great feeling to be on this ice again. really miss it, I'll tell you that," Esposito said as the crowd chanted "Tony! Tony!" "It's a pleasure and an honor to be back with the 'Hawks.'" □

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Russell Westbrook eager to help LeBron in Lakers homecoming

By **GREG BEACHAM**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Russell Westbrook was a Lakers fan from childhood, and he skipped school to attend their championship parades. After he became close friends with Kobe Bryant, they spoke about the responsibility and honor of playing for this decorated franchise.

Yet even after Westbrook became an NBA superstar with the autonomy now available to basketball's best players, he figured the timing would never be right to suit up for his beloved hometown team — let alone alongside two fellow superstars with a real chance to win his first championship.

"Some of these dreams don't come true for people like myself," Westbrook said. After spending the last half-decade racking up spectacular numbers for teams with little chance of major success, Westbrook is joining the Lakers for his 14th NBA season. Los Angeles general manager Rob Pelinka pulled off a spectacular trade to team Westbrook with LeBron James and Anthony Davis on a reconfigured Lakers roster designed to win rings now.

When it came together over the past week, the 32-year-old Westbrook said he repeatedly found himself at a loss for words.



Los Angeles Lakers guard Russell Westbrook poses for a photo with his jersey at an introductory NBA basketball news conference in Los Angeles, Tuesday, Aug. 10, 2021.

Associated Press

His broad smile said plenty when he held up his gold No. 0 jersey Tuesday alongside his parents and brother.

"Being from LA, you always wish that you could play for your home team," Westbrook said. "That's definitely something that always circled around in my mind. Maybe one day? But I always would come back and be like, 'Ah, that probably won't happen.' I just had to wait and see. But now that we're here, I'm going to take full advantage of it."

The Lakers believe they can take full advantage of both

James and Westbrook, a pairing that seems potentially difficult. Westbrook famously is among the most ball-dominant players of his generation, while James has become an exceptional offensive initiator and point guard alongside his innumerable other skills. Westbrook, who has several eponymous auto dealerships in the Los Angeles area, is ready to play a complementary role to keep the Lakers on the road to a title.

"LeBron is one of the best players to play this game, and his ability to do everything on the floor allows me

to just figure it out," Westbrook said. "I'm coming to a championship-caliber team, and my job is to make his game easy for him, and I'll find ways to do that. As it pertains to ball-handling, it really doesn't matter. There's many different ways you can impact the game without having the ball in your hands. I've been able to do that for a number of years, and we'll figure it out."

Westbrook's confidence is echoed by coach Frank Vogel, whose recent contract extension underlines Pelinka's faith in his ability to figure out how to win with

this extremely talented, not-so-young roster. Along with Davis, Los Angeles will have three of the NBA's top five active scoring leaders with James (first), Carmelo Anthony (second) and Westbrook (fifth).

"Anytime you have three great players like this, there is an element of sacrifice required, and we've all talked about that and are all-in on that," Vogel said. "But these three guys can do it all. They're all make-the-right-play players. It's not just about scoring or being a one-dimensional player. They can all do it all. I'm most excited about seeing what the three of them on the court at the same time looks like."

Westbrook's ability to create opportunities for his teammates is unquestionable: The nine-time All-Star averaged a triple-double last season in Washington for the fourth time in the last five years, leading the NBA in assists for the third time in four seasons with a career-best 11.7 while adding a career-high 11.5 rebounds. Vogel expects Westbrook's ball-pushing ability to improve the Lakers on the fast break, where they were a below-average team last season while Washington was the NBA's best. The Lakers' defense also will change markedly after they had the NBA's best last season. □

Medvedev advances in Toronto; Andreescu wins in Montreal



Russia's Daniil Medvedev returns the ball against Kazakhstan's Alexander Bublik during the men's National Bank Open tennis tournament in Toronto on Tuesday, Aug., 10, 2021.

Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Daniil Medvedev advanced to

the third round of the National Bank Open on Tuesday, defeating Alexander Bublik of Kazakhstan 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 in a match that was briefly suspended by rain. Medvedev, ranked No. 2, lost to Rafael Nadal in the finals of the Toronto event in 2019, the last year it was played. Nadal withdrew from the tournament on Tuesday with a foot injury. On the women's side in Montreal, defending champion Bianca Andreescu, the No. 2 seed, beat qualifier Harriet Dart 6-1, 3-6, 6-3 in a match that lasted just over two hours. The 21-year-old Andreescu,

who won the U.S. Open in 2019, was playing her first match since a first-round exit at Wimbledon in late June.

"My goal isn't to be on the court that long," Andreescu said. "I want to be able to stick to my game plan the whole entire match and I feel I haven't been doing that in my matches a lot."

"That comes with experience and playing matches and I haven't been playing many matches."

Also in Montreal, Coco Gauff defeated Anastasija Sevastova, while Johanna Konta — returning from a tough bout with COVID-19

— defeated Zhang Shuai, who retired in the second set.

Sara Sorribes Tormo beat Carol Zhao.

On the men's side, third-seeded Stefanos Tsitsipas beat France's Ugo Humbert 6-3, 6-7 (13), 6-1, while Casper Ruud of Norway topped veteran Marin Cilic 6-3, 3-6, 6-3. American John Isner won his opening-round match 6-4, 6-1 over Alejandro Davidovich Fokina.

Other men's winners Tuesday were Kei Nishikori, Nikoloz Basilashvili, Dusan Lajovic and Karen Khachanov. □